SHRUBS FOR NEBRASKA

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Geographic Adaptability: An **E** indicates plants suitable primarily to the Eastern 1/3 of the state while a **W** is for plants that are better adapted to the more arid environment of western Nebraska. All others are considered to be adaptable to most of Nebraska.

Drought/Wet Adaptability: ☼ indicates plants with exceptional drought tolerance while a **\(\int \)** indicates plants that tolerate wet soils.

Size Range: The size range indicated for each plant is the expected average mature height x spread for Nebraska.

Large Deciduous Shrubs (typically over 5' tall/wide at maturity)

- 1. Amorpha, Indigobush Amorpha fruticosa (native; good for massing and along pond edges; attractive purple flowers; 6-12'x 4-10')
- 2. Buffaloberry, Silver Shepherdia argentea (🌣; tough western native; fragrant flowers and edible fruit; silver foliage; 10-15'x 10-12')
- 3. Burning Bush (Winged Euonymus) Euonymus alatus (b; commonly planted for fiery red fall color; 10-12'x 6-10')
- 4. Buttonbush Cephalanthus occidentalis (); native to moist sites; interesting button-like flowers; glossy foliage; 6-10'x 5-8')
- 5. Cherry, Nanking Prunus tomentosa (🌣; early white, fragrant flowers; exfoliating bark; glossy foliage; edible fruit; 6-12'x 6-12')
- 6. **Chokeberry, Black** *Aronia melanocarpa* (**\(\)**; upright habit; glossy leaves; white flowers in May, black fruit and red fall color; 5-8'x 4-6'; variety *elata* has wonderfully glossy foliage; 'Autumn Magic' is more compact with showy fruit clusters)
- 7. Chokeberry, Red Aronia arbutifolia (E; 6; similar to Black Chokeberry but with red fruit and scarlet leaves in fall; 5-7'x 4-6')
- 8. **Chokecherry** *Prunus virginiana* ($\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\times}$; common native; sometimes a small tree; multi-stem, suckering habit; 10-15'x 6-12')
- 9. Cotoneaster, Hedge Cotoneaster lucidus (🌣; semi-evergreen; very hardy and reliable; glossy leaves; good fruit; 6-8'x 5-6')
- 10. **Currant, Clove** *Ribes odoratum* ($\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\Sigma}$; native; tough and adaptable; edible fruit; good for wildlife; clove scented yellow flowers; 5-6'x 5-6'; Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*) is a very similar and even more hardy)
- 11. **Dogwood, Corneliancherry** Cornus mas (\(\sigma\); sulfur yellow flowers in early spring; mottled bark; sometimes a small tree; 8-15'x 6-12')
- 12. Dogwood, Flowering Cornus florida (E; eastern G.P. only; needs extra protection; attractive but unreliable flowers; 15'x 10')
- 13. **Dogwood, Gray** *Cornus racemosa* (☼; native; good dusty red fall color; can be grown as a small tree; 10-15'x 6-12')
- 14. Dogwood, Kousa Cornus kousa (E; nice small tree; star-like creamy-white flowers; attractive bark; needs protection; 15'x 10')
- 15. Dogwood, Pagoda Cornus alternifolia (E; beautifully layered branching; large white flowers; glossy leaves; 10-15'x 10-15')
- 16. **Dogwood, Redstem** Cornus sericea (♦; beautiful red stems are vibrant against a snowy backdrop; spreading; 8-10'x 8-10')
- 17. **Dogwood, Silky** Cornus amomum (**b**; good for wet areas; attractive white to porcelain blue fruit in fall; 6-10'x 5-8')
- 18. Dogwood, Variegated Cornus alba (); similar to redstem dogwood, but leaves have creamy margins; 'Ivory Halo' is 5-6'x 5-6')
- 19. Elderberry Sambucus canadensis (6; found naturally in moist areas; suckering habit; edible black fruit; 8-10'x 8-10')
- 20. **Forsythia** *Forsythia spp*. (公; golden flowers often cover the plant in early spring; flowers not always reliable; many cultivars and types available including 'Meadowlark', 'Northern Sun', 'Lynwood Gold'; 5-8'x 5-8')
- 21. Hazelnut, American Corylus americana (6; native to northern G.P.; edible nuts; bronze fall color; good for massing; 6-8'x 6-8')
- 22. Lilac, Common Syringa vulgaris (🌣; very common; great fragrance in spring; many cultivars to choose from; 6-12'x 6-10')
- 23. Lilac, Miss Kim Syringa patula (🌣; common mid-sized lilac; purple fragrant blooms later than most; 6-7'x 5-6')
- 24. **Lilac, misc.** *Syringa* spp. (🌣; several species and types of lilac are available including later blooming forms, smaller leaf forms, a cutleaf type, spreading habits, etc.; consult with local nurseries for availability)
- 25. Locust, New Mexico Robinia neomexicana (W; 🌣; western native; purple flowers; thicket forming; drought tolerant; 10-12'x 10-12')
- 26. Magnolia, Star Magnolia stellata (E; hardiest of the magnolias for Nebraska; reliable white flowers; 6-10'x 5-8')
- 27. Mahogany, Curl-leaf Mountain Cercocarpus ledifolius (W; ☼; semi-evergreen western native; dry soils only; 8'x 5')
- 28. Mahogany, Mountain Cercocarpus montanus (W; 🌣; native west. G.P.; sparse foliage; upright habit; dry soils only; 5-8'x 4-6')
- 29. Mockorange Philadelphus spp. (☆; old fashioned shrubs grown for their sweetly fragrant white flowers in June; 5-10'x 4-8')
- 30. **Ninebark, Common** *Physocarpus opulifolious* (\(\sigma\); native; attractive exfoliating bark; rounded habit; tough, easy to grow; 5-8'x 5-8'; 'Diabolo' and 'Summer Wine' are newer purple-foliage forms; dwarf forms available)
- 31. Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin Quercus prinoides (🌣; native; prolific and early acorn producer; spreading, variable habit; 6-15'x 6-15')
- 32. Peashrub, Siberian Caragana arborescens (W; ☼; very drought tolerant; best in west; open habit; 10-15′x 6-10′)
- 33. Plum, American Prunus americana (☼; native; very tough; attractive white flowers in spring smell of grape candy; 6-12'x 6-12')
- 34. **Privet** *Ligustrum vulgare* (🌣; tough shrub often used for hedges; showy, pungent flowers in June; compact forms available; 4-8'x 3-6')
- 35. Rose Rosa spp. (🌣; many species and cultivars to choose from; see entry under medium shrubs)
- 36. Serviceberry (Juneberry), Downy Amelanchier arborea (E; native; often a multi-stem small tree; great flowers, fruit; 15'x 10')
- 37. Serviceberry, Saskatoon Amelanchier alnifolia (🌣; native to north. G.P.; attractive spring flowers; spreads by stolons; 5-15'x 5-10')
- 38. **Serviceberry, Shadblow** *Amelanchier canadensis* (**E**; **♦**; white flowers in spring; edible fruit; suckering habit; 8-12′x 8-12′)
- 39. Smoketree, Common Cotinus coggygria (E; plumy, smoke-like inflorescence; purple-leaf forms most common; 8-10'x 8-10')
- 40. Spirea, Bridalwreath Spiraea prunifolia (old favorite with double white flowers in spring; arching habit similar to Vanhoutte; 5'x 6')
- 41. Spirea, Vanhoutte Spiraea × vanhouttei (old fashioned type; arching stems covered in white flowers mid spring; 5'x 6')
- 42. Sumac, Fragrant Rhus aromatica (🌣; tough native; fragrant leaves; nice fall color; attractive fuzzy fruit; good in mass; 5-8'x 5-8')
- 43. Sumac, Smooth Rhus glabra (🌣; native; good fall color; can spread aggressively in the landscape; suckering habit; 10-20'x 6-12')

- 44. Sumac, Staghorn Rhus typhina (🌣; similar to smooth sumac but with fuzzy branch tips; distinctive seed horn; 6-12'x 6-12')
- 45. **Viburnum, American Cranberrybush** *Viburnum trilobum* (♠; attractive creamy-white flowers in flat clusters; nice red fruit and fall color; very adaptable; 'Wentworth' is a common form grown for abundant, showy fruit; 8-12'x 8-12')
- 46. **Viburnum, Arrowwood** *Viburnum dentatum* (♠; clean, shiny, upright foliage; attractive black fruit in fall; many proven cultivars including 'Autumn Jazz', 'Chicago Lustre' and 'Northern Burgundy'; 6-10'x 6-10')
- 47. Viburnum, Blackhaw Viburnum prunifolium (☼; white spring flowers & good fall color; can be grown as a small tree; 10-15'x 8-10')
- 48. Viburnum, Burkwood Viburnum × burkwoodii (☆; shiny leaves; fragrant flowers; rounded, open habit; 6-10'x 6-10')
- 49. **Viburnum, Doublefile** *Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum* (E; very attractive, layered habit; beautiful white, plate-like flowers; often suffers stem dieback in winter; 5-8'x 5-8'; cultivars include 'Shasta', 'Maries', 'Pink Beauty', 'Shoshoni')
- 50. **Viburnum, European Cranberrybush** *Viburnum opulus* (🌣; attractive flowers and fruit; birds love it; tough and adaptable; compact forms available; the common snowball bush is a form with large balls of white flowers but is aphid infested; 6-12'x 6-12')
- 51. Viburnum, Manchurian Viburnum burejaeticum (🌣; similar to V. lantana; fragrant flowers; very hardy; nice fruit; 8-12'x 8-12')
- 52. **Viburnum, Lantanaphyllum** *Viburnum* × *rhytidophylloides* (**E**; **♦**; large, leathery leaves hold year-round; 'Alleghany' and 'Willowwood' are common cultivars that grow 10-12'x 10-12')
- 53. **Viburnum, Nannyberry** *Viburnum lentago* (🌣; native to north. G.P.; attractive white flowers in spring and purple-red fall color; susceptible to mildew in wet years; can be grown as a small tree; 10-15'x 10-15')
- 54. Viburnum, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum rufidulum (E; ♦; beautiful and lustrous dark green foliage; very attractive; 8-12'x 8-12')
- 55. **Viburnum, Sargent** *Viburnum sargentii* ($\stackrel{\cdot}{\cong}$; similar to *Viburnum trilobum* with attractive flowers and nice fruit; 'Onondoga' is a variety with maroon tinged foliage and purple tinged pink flowers; 6-10'x 6-10')
- 56. Viburnum, Siebold Viburnum sieboldii (E; lustrous, tough, leathery leaves; can grow quite large; 12-15'x 10-12')
- 57. **Viburnum, Wayfaringtree** *Viburnum lantana* ($\stackrel{\cdot}{\hookrightarrow}$; long planted; very tough and adaptable; creamy white flowers give way to red fruits that ripen to black; good red fall color; 'Mohican' is a compact selection with abundant fruit; 6-10'x 5-8')
- 58. Wafer-ash (Hop Tree) Ptelea trifoliata (🌣; native; unusual compound leaf and interesting wafer-like fruit; 8-12'x 8-12')
- 59. Wahoo, Eastern Euonymus atropurpureus (🌣; native shrub with good red fruit and fall color; 8-12' x 6-10')
- 60. Witchhazel, Common Hamamelis virginiana (E; ♦; native; late fall flowers; good yellow/orange fall color; 6-10' x 5-8')

Small/Medium Deciduous Shrubs (under 5' tall/wide at maturity)

- 61. Apache Plume Fallugia paradoxa (W; 🌣; western native; white rose-like spring flowers; plume-like seed bracts; 3-5'x 3-5')
- 62. **Azalea** *Rhododendron spp.* (**E**; **♦**; deciduous leathery leaves; prefer acid soils, part shade, protected sites; very attractive flowers; 4-5′x 4-5′; Minnesota selected "Lights" series including 'Golden Lights', 'Northern Lights' and 'Rosy Lights' are the hardiest)
- 63. **Barberry, Japanese** *Berberis thunbergii* (common plant; thorny stems; rounded form; good barrier plant; green, yellow, red and purple forms exist; many size ranges; typically 3-5'x 3-5')
- 64. Barberry, Korean Berberis koreana (very hardy; thorny stems; deep green in summer; reddish purple in fall; 4-5'x 4-5')
- 65. Barberry, Mentor Berberis × mentorensis (\$\tilde{\pi}\$; good as hedge; bright green; golden yellow flower; thorny; 5'x 5')
- 66. Bearberry Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (broadleaf evergreen groundcover; very cold hardy; prefers acid soil; 6-12"x 2-4')
- 67. Beautyberry, Purple Callicarpa dichotoma (E; striking metallic purple berries in fall; needs protection; 3-5'x 3-5')
- 68. **Bluebeard (Blue Mist Spirea)** *Caryopteris* × *clandonensis* (**E**; similar to spirea but with blue flowers most of summer; not long lived; treat as herbaceous perennial and cut back to the ground in spring; 'Blue Mist' and 'Dark Knight' are common cultivars; 4'x 4')
- 69. Buckeye, Bottlebrush Aesculus parviflora (E; ♦; attractive panicle of white flowers in summer; prefers protected site; 5-8'x 5-8')
- 70. Burning Bush, Dwarf Euonymus alatus 'Compactus' (6; commonly planted for fiery red fall color; corky stems; 5-6'x 4-5')
- 71. **Butterfly Bush** *Buddleia davidii* (**E**; herbaceous in Nebraska; multi-stem habit; lilac like flowers in summer attract butterflies; 4-6'x 3-5'; many cultivars available including 'Black Knight', 'Nanho Blue', and 'Pink Delight')
- 72. **Cherry, Sand** *Prunus besseyi* (**W**; ☆; native to western G.P.; prefers sandy and well-drained soils; 3-5'x 3-5'; 'Pawnee Buttes' is a low, spreading cultivar growing to 2' x 10')
- 73. Clethra, Summersweet Clethra alnifolia (uncommon; sweet smelling flowers in July; shade tolerant; 3-5'x 3-4')
- 74. **Coralberry** *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* ($\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\times}$; native suckering shrub; often grows in a twining low thicket; attractive purple-red fruit in fall and winter; birds love it; 3-4'x 3-4'; 'Chenault' is a refined form with striking fruit; 'Hancock' is a low, groundcover 1-2'x 3-4')
- 75. Cotoneaster, Cranberry Cotoneaster apiculatus (arching stems in unique herring bone pattern; bright red fruit; 2-3'x 3-5')
- 76. Cotoneaster, Spreading Cotoneaster divaricatus (菜; semi-evergreen; glossy leaves; attractive dark red fruit; 3-5'x 5-6')
- 77. **Currant** *Ribes spp.* (菜; several species and types adaptable to Nebraska; good for massing, wildlife and tough sites)
- 78. **Deutzia** Deutzia gracilis (old-fashioned but forgotten; pure white flowers smother the plant in May; 3-5'x 2-4')
- 79. Dogwood, Redstem Cornus sericea (); attractive red stems in winter; shorter forms include 'Isanti' 4-5' and 'Kelsey' 2-3')
- 80. Falsespirea, Ural Sorbaria sorbifolia (🌣; very aggressive, spreading plant; white flowers similar to spirea; 3-5'x spreading)
- 81. Forsythia, Bronx Forsythia viridissima (groundcover habit; sparse yellow flowers; bronze in fall; 2-3'x 2-3')
- 82. Fothergilla Fothergilla gardenii (6; fragrant, bottlebrush-like flowers; witchhazel-like leaves; good fall color; 3-5' x 3-5')
- 83. Holly, Winterberry Ilex verticillata. (E; ♦; need male and female for striking fruit set; 5-8'x 5-8')
- 84. Hydrangea, Oakleaf Hydrangea quercifolia (E; ♦; sub-shrub; coarse leaves; great flowers; exfoliating bark; 3-5' x 3-5')
- 85. Hydrangea, Smooth Hydrangea arborescens (big snowball flowers on long stems; 'Annabelle' is a common type; 2-3' x 2-3')
- 86. Leadplant Amorpha canescens (native prairie plant; very tough; silver leaves; blue-purple flowers; 3-4'x 3-4')
- 87. Lilac, Dwarf Korean Syringa meyeri (🌣; dwarf lilac; round uniform habit; small leaves; later bloom; 4-5'x 6-7')
- 88. Potentilla Potentilla fruticosa (W; 🌣; very tough, small shrub; wide color range; 2-4'x 2-4')
- 89. Quince, Flowering Chaenomeles speciosa (showy orange red flowers in May; somewhat thorny; 3-5'x 3-5')
- 90. Rabbitbrush Chrysothamnus nauseosus (W; 🌣; tough western native with great late summer yellow flowers; 3-5' x 3-5')

- 91. **Rhododendron** *Rhododendron spp.* (**E**; **♦**; broadleaf evergreens for shade and part shade; prefer acid soils & protected sites; very attractive in flower; 'P.J.M.' is one of the hardiest (4-5'x 4-5'); other cultivars available including 'Northern Starburst')
- 92. **Rose** *Rosa* spp. (🌣; many species, types and cultivars with various colors and size ranges to choose from; consult with nursery) Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) hardy shrub roses; many disease resistant cultivars; attractive fruits in fall; 3-8'x 3-8'.

White Rugosa Rose (Rosa rugosa alba) - white flowered shrub rose with showy fruit; 4-5'x 4-5'.

Redleaf Rose (Rosa rubrifolia) - very attractive plum colored foliage all summer; bright purple hips in fall; 4-5'x 3-4'.

'Knock Out' - a very popular shrub rose with great disease resistance; everblooming, cherry red blossoms; 2-3'x 2-3'.

'Nearly Wild' - popular shrub rose; pink blooms all summer; disease-free plant; 3-4'x 3-4'.

'Theresa Bugnet' - pink flowers and spicy aroma; 5-6'x 5-6'.

'Sea Foam' - distinctive large clusters of fragrant white flowers; 3-4'x 3-4'.

- 93. Serviceberry, Saskatoon Amelanchier alnifolia (🌣; 'Regent' and 'Smokey' have abundant fruit & spreading habit; 4 -5'x 4-5')
- 94. **Snowberry** *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* (🌣; native relative of coralberry but with white fruit; often leggy; 3-4'x 3-4')
- 95. **Spirea, Bumald** *Spiraea* × *bumalda* (a very popular shrub often over planted; 'Froebel' has pink flowers and bright green leaves; 'Anthony Waterer' had pink-red mottled flowers; 'Goldflame' & 'Goldmound' are chlorotic looking with yellow foliage; 3'x 3')
- 96. Spirea, Fritschiana Spiraea fritschiana (large, attractive, flat-topped white flowers; clean, large leaves; 3'x 3')
- 97. Spirea, Grefsheim Spiraea × cinerea (lovely compact, white flowers cover the plant in April; dense, arching habit; 4'x 4')
- 98. **Spirea, Japanese** *Spiraea japonica* (compact form; pink flowers emerge late spring through summer; cultivars vary greatly in size including several dwarf farms less than 1' tall; 'Daphne', 'Little Princess', 'Magic Carpet', 'Neon Flash', 'Shibori'; 2-3'x 2-3')
- 99. Spirea, Japanese White Spiraea albiflora (compact, graceful habit; white flowers bloom late (July and August); 2'x 2')
- 100. Spirea, Snowmound Spiraea nipponica 'Snowmound' (pure white flowers cover the shrub in May; compact habit; 3'x 3')
- 101. St. Johnswort, Kalm Hypericum kalmianum (E; bright yellow flowers in summer; compact, rounded; 3'x 4')
- 102. St. Johnswort, Shrubby Hypericum prolificum (E; ♦; bright yellow flowers in June & July; finicky; blue green foliage; 3'x 4')
- 103. St. Johnswort, Sunburst Hypericum frondosum 'Sunburst' (E; 6; bright yellow flowers June-August; herbaceous habit; 2'x 3')
- 104. Sumac, Gro-Low Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low' (🌣; a low growing form of a tough native; nice fall color; 2-3'x 3-5')
- 105. **Sumac, Skunkbush** *Rhus aromatica* (**W**; ☆; native to western Nebraska; tough as nails; good fall color; 4-6'x 5-7'; 'Autumn Amber' is a low, spreading form growing to 2'x 8')
- 106. Sweetshrub (Carolina Allspice) Calycanthus floridus (E; ♦; interesting red flowers; spicy sweet fragrance; 4'x 5')
- 107. Viburnum, Emerald Triumph Viburnum x 'Emerald Triumph' (a more compact form of Lantanaphyllum Viburnum; 4-6'x 4-6')
- 108. Viburnum, Judd Viburnum × juddii (wonderfully spicy fragrant snowball-like flowers in late April; slower grower; 5-8'x 4-6')
- 109. Viburnum, Koreanspice Viburnum carlesii (very similar to Judd viburnum; fragrant flowers; slightly more compact; 4-6'x 4-6')
- 110. **Viburnum, Smooth Witherod** *Viburnum nudum* (creamy white flowers in June; attractive fruit that changes from white to pink to dark blue; lustrous green leaves; 'Winterthur' is a common cultivar; 5-6'x 4-6')
- 111. Viburnum, Witherod Viburnum cassinoides (very similar to Smooth Witherod but leaves not as glossy; 5-6'x 4-6')
- 112. Weigela Weigela florida (); common foundation plant with showy lavender flowers; 3-5' x 3-5')

Evergreen Shrubs

- 113. Arborvitae, Russian Microbiota decussata (🌣; uncommon, low-growing spreader; graceful, feathery foliage; 12"x 3-5')
- 114. Boxwood, Common Buxus sempervirens (E; marginally hardy broadleaf evergreen; requires protected site; can grow 5-6'x 3-5')
- 115. Boxwood, Littleleaf (Korean) Buxus microphylla (E; hardiest of the boxwoods; upright; prefers part shade; 2-4'x 2-3')
- 116. Firethorn Pyracantha coccinea (E; thorny; bright orange-red fruit in fall; 6-10'x 8-12')
- 117. **Grapeholly** *Mahonia aquifolium* (holly-like leaves; yellow flowers; attractive fruit; prefers part shade and acid soil; 2-3"x 3-4'; *Mahonia repens* (Creeping Mahonia) is a shorter native form that grows under pine trees in the Panhandle; 12-15"x 2-4')
- 118. Holly, Meserve Hybrids Ilex × meserveae (E; ♦; hybrid hollies proven to grow in Nebraska with protection; attractive red fruit in fall and winter; Blue Boy/Blue Girl, China Boy/China Girl are common types; need male and female for fruit)
- 119. **Juniper, Common** *Juniperus communis* (🌣; underused native with soft, layered foliage; can tolerate some shade; 2-3'x 3-5'; 'Blueberry Delight' is a North Dakota selection with silvery blue foliage on a 1'-2'x 4-8' plant)
- 120. Juniper, Chinese Juniperus chinensis (🌣; common landscape shrub; dozens of selections available including:

'Armstrong' - a common form with gray-green foliage; layered habit; lacy texture; 4-5'x 8-12')

'Holbert' - a lower growing form with silvery blue foliage that is retained through winter; 2-4'x 6-12')

'Old Gold' - new growth golden, similar bit to 'Armstrong', 4-5'x 8-12')

'Pfitzeriana' - the old Pfitzer juniper that can grow quite large, 6-12'x 10-20')

'Pfitzeriana Compacta' - a slower growing, more compact form of Pfitzer; 3-5'x 6-12')

Sargent (J. chinensis var. sargentii) - gray-green, feathered foliage; attractive plant; 1-2'x 5-8')

'Sea Green' - lush, dark green foliage; fountain-like arching habit; 5-8'x 8-10')

- 121. **Juniper, Creeping** *Juniperus horizontalis* (🌣; native, ground-hugging evergreen; typically grows 6"-12" x 5'-10' wide; common cultivars include 'Bar Harbor', 'Blue Chip', Wilton Carpet', 'Andorra' and 'Prince of Wales')
- 122. Juniper, Savin Juniperus sabina (🌣; bright green foliage; mounding habit; typically 18-24"x 6-10'; common cultivars include 'Arcadia', 'Broadmoor', 'Buffalo' and variety tamariscifolia (Tams Juniper))
- 123. Yew Taxus × media (E; short needled evergreen shrubs; many forms and size ranges available including 'Densiformis' (3'x5'), 'Everlow' (2'x4'),

